

February 26, 1974

to have a bill raised. Now this is a bill that I entered for humanitarian reasons. The bill would permit Nebraska citizens to select their own doctors, when injured at work or under our Workman's Compensation Act. I have seen this measure come up several times, but never on the floor for full debate. It has usually died in committee. Since the present time, at least 4 states now grant their citizens this right. There's Oklahoma, Texas, Minnesota, and New York. I feel we should at least, give the working people of Nebraska a fair review of this bill by full discussion. I had a slip passed on your desks this morning. This describes very well what this bill does. My only purpose in introducing the bill, because I sincerely believe that both employers and employees in

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the long run would be better off if the injured man could see his own family doctor when hurt, and not have to be concerned about whether his doctor is on any list posted by the employer. If there are unethical doctors, their licenses can be revoked. But if the State of Nebraska grants them the right to treat our citizens, why not give our citizens the right to make their own choice. I hope you will support this motion to place LB 642 on General File.

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I'll be very brief. Briefer than last time. I'm in favor of Senator Moylan's bill, and I think when you select a list of doctor's like this. It produces a subsidize class of doctors to the exclusion of every other doctor who might be just a capable of ruling on this particular medical question that the injured employee would bring as a member of the special groups selected here. That in my mind and in the minds of other people make this list of doctors a group of suspects. People wonder why they are considered amenable to the employers point of view in opposition to the welfare to the injured employee. There is no situation that I can think of where a list of lawyers is drawn up the court, and they say you must go to one of these lawyers to have your case prosecuted. So in the same way, I think the individual injured should be allowed to select a doctor of his or her choice and as long as that doctor's practicing and in good standing is not officially declared a quack, the injured person should have the right of choice.

PRESIDENT: Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. President and members of the Legislature. A question of Senator Moylan.

PRESIDENT: Do you yield, Senator Moylan?

SENATOR MOYLAN: Yes, Sir.